

Claims

1. An isolated nucleic acid sequence which encodes biologically active ETF.
2. An isolated nucleic acid sequence according to claim 1 wherein said nucleic acid sequence is selected from the group consisting of:
 - (a) cDNA which encodes a mammalian ETF gene;
 - (b) nucleic acid sequences which hybridize to the cDNA of (a) under moderate stringency conditions and which encode a biologically active ETF; and
 - (c) nucleic acid sequences that are degenerate as a result of the genetic code to the nucleic acid sequences of (a) or (b), and which encode biologically active ETF.
3. An isolated nucleic acid sequence according to claim 1 wherein said ETF is human ETF.
4. An isolated nucleic acid sequence according to claim 1 wherein said nucleic acid sequence comprises nucleotides 145 through 486 of the DNA sequence of SEQ. ID. NO. 1.
5. An isolated nucleic acid sequence according to claim 1 wherein said nucleic acid sequence comprises nucleotide 145 through 486 of the DNA sequence of SEQ. ID. NO. 4.
6. An expression vector which directs the expression of a nucleic acid sequence according to any one of claims 1 to 5.
7. A host cell transformed or transfected with an expression vector according to claim 6.
8. A process for preparing ETF, comprising culturing a host cell according to claim 7 under conditions promoting expression of ETF, and recovering ETF from the culture.

9. An isolated biologically active ETF polypeptide wherein said ETF polypeptide is selected from the group consisting of:

- (a) a polypeptide having the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO 3;
- (b) a polypeptide having the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO 6; and
- (c) a polypeptide encoded by an isolated nucleic acid sequence according

to claim 2.

10. An isolated biologically active ETF polypeptide according to claim 9, comprising a polypeptide having the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO 3.

11. An isolated biologically active ETF polypeptide according to claim 9, comprising a polypeptide having the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO 6.

12. A pharmaceutical composition, comprising the isolated ETF polypeptide according to claim 9 and a diluent or carrier.

13. The pharmaceutical composition according to claim 12, wherein said ETF polypeptide has the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO 6.

14. A method for treating or preventing gastrointestinal diseases, comprising administering to a patient a therapeutically effective amount of ETF.

15. The method according to claim 14 wherein said gastrointestinal disease is chemo- or radiation- induced enteritis.

16. A method for treating HIV or HIV-associated diseases, comprising administering to a patient a therapeutically effective amount of ETF.

17. An isolated antibody which specifically binds ETF.

18. The antibody according to claim 17 wherein said antibody is a monoclonal antibody.

19. A hybridoma which produces an antibody according to claim 18.

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